

May 23, 2017

Mr. Randy Fiorini  
Chair, Delta Stewardship Council  
980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500  
Sacramento, CA 95814

DELTA COUNCIL  
MAIL ROOM  
2017 MAY 26 PM 5:29



**SUBJECT: California Water Fix – Delta Plan**

Dear Mr. Fiorini,

The Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA) is one of the most influential business advocacy organizations in Southern California, representing more than 400 businesses in the San Fernando Valley and throughout Los Angeles County. We are writing to comment on the Delta Stewardship Council's ongoing efforts to ensure a reliable water supply for California and restore the challenged ecosystem of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The Delta Plan, as drafted by the Stewardship Council, serves as the essential blueprint for numerous local, state, and federal agencies to advance these goals through their representative jurisdictions. The Council is now in the process of amending this plan to expand its guidance for future improvements to Delta conveyance, water storage, and reservoir operations.

Overall, VICA agrees with the Council findings that the status quo in the Delta is unsustainable and unacceptable. Increasing risks from sea level rise, subsidence, and earthquakes in the Delta threaten not only the water supply for 25 million Californians, but also the state's \$2 trillion economy that depends on reliable supplies of high quality water. Delta water systems need to be modernized with new intakes in a manner that is compatible with Delta communities. VICA supports the recommendation to build additional storage so that more water can be captured during wet periods.

To refine these broad objectives into appropriate final language, we encourage you to work closely with the stakeholders representing our communities who are most closely engaged in this vital process, including the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, its member agencies, local water agencies, and the State Water Contractors. Southern California will continue to reduce its reliance on the Delta to meet future needs through historic investments in conservation and new local supply development. Water from Northern California will remain an important baseline supply and must help to provide the reserves necessary to withstand droughts. A successful conclusion to your process is critical to advance a modernization of the Delta water system to advance both restoration and water reliability goals.

Our members and the California economy depend on a reliable water supply. We thank you for your work on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Kevin Tamaki  
VICA Chair

Stuart Waldman  
VICA President

16600 Sherman Way, Suite 170  
Van Nuys, CA 91406

■ tel (818) 817-0545 ■ fax (818) 907-7934 ■ email [vica@vica.com](mailto:vica@vica.com) ■ website [www.vica.com](http://www.vica.com)

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